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POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

Letter dated 4 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, the Government of South Africa has, with a view to broadening the base of the constitutional negotiations, been holding bilateral discussions with various interested parties.

Most recently, representatives of the Government and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania met in Gaborone, Botswana, on 23 and 24 October 1992. At the end of the meeting, the attached joint statement (see annex), the importance of which will be appreciated, was issued.

I should be grateful if this letter, and annex, could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 33.

(Signed) V. R. W. STEWARD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Joint statement by the representatives of the Government of South Africa and the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, issued at Gabarone, Botswana, on 24 October 1992

1. The aim of the Gaborone meeting was to pave the way for fully representative negotiations and to address, among other things, ways and means to end violence in South Africa.

2. The delegations have discussed these aims under the following items with a view to reporting back respectively to the South African Government and the National Executive Council of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania:

2.1 A more representative forum;

2.2 Constituent Assembly/Constitution-making body;

2.3 Transitional arrangements;

2.4 Violence;

2.5 Attacks on Security Forces;

2.6 Future meetings.

3. Following substantive discussions on the above items, common ground between the parties exists on the following points:

3.1 The political conflict in our country should be resolved through peaceful negotiations;

3.2 Maximum efforts should be exerted by all parties to bring an end to violence in the country;

3.3 South Africa needs a new non-racial democratic constitution to be drawn up by a body elected on a common voters roll. The principles guiding such a body shall be decided upon by a more representative negotiating forum;

3.4 The urgent need to establish a more representative negotiating forum. This forum should be as inclusive as possible and should be managed impartially;

3.5 The negotiating forum should decide on transitional arrangements leading to the attainment of a new constitution;

3.6 Constitutionality should be maintained during the transitional period;

3.7 Peaceful negotiations and free and fair elections require a commitme all participants to adhere to peaceful political activities and to refrain from inflammatory statements;

3.8 Negotiations will continue in the near future between the two partie particularly on the subject of a more representative negotiating for

4. The discussions were cordial and were characterized by mutual understanding of each other's viewpoints. Substantial progress was in identifying common ground in respect of important elements of the negotiating process.

5. Both parties wish to express their sincere appreciation to the Gover of Botswana for its hospitality and for the facilities provided. A special word of thanks was conveyed to Dr. G. K. T. Chiepe, Minister Foreign Affairs of Botswana, who hosted and chaired the meeting.